



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Hidehei Kageyama et al.

Serial No.: 10/040,491

Group Art Unit: 3751

Filed: January 9, 2002

Examiner: Prunner, Kathleen

For: **MECHANICAL PENCIL**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

#6/a
4/21/03
D. Prunner

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APR 17 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A mechanical pencil, comprising:

a barrel;

a lead feeding mechanism disposed in said barrel to be adapted to tighten and feed a lead; and

a lead holder disposed between the lead feeding mechanism and a tip end of said barrel, said lead holder having a through hole through which the lead penetrates and having holding portions for holding the lead and a contact portion for contacting an inner peripheral face of the barrel,

said holding portions including a first holding portion at a front portion of the lead holder and a second holding portion at a rear portion of the lead holder so that when a length